

Message Text

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DEPT PLEASE PASS EPA FOR F. ALLEN HARRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, SENV

SUBJ: CCMS: FALL 1975 PLENARY - NEW PROJECTS - CANADIAN
PROPOSAL ON NUTRITION

REF: USNATO 4952

1. SECRETARIAT HAS JUST CIRCULATED DRAFT PROPOSAL (TEXT BELOW)
FOR A CCMS PILOT STUDY ON "FOOD AND HEALTH", SUBMITTED BY CANADA.
SECRETARIAT COVER NOTE ADDS THAT CANADA'S SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL
IS "IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT COUNTRIES MAY PROPOSE
STUDIES WITHOUT NECESSARILY BEING PREPARED TO SERVE AS PILOT
COUNTRY (AC/274-R/17, ITEM II)."

NOTE ADDS THAT OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY WOULD BE TO "IDENTIFY,
COMPARE AND EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VARIOUS METHODS
WHICH HAVE BEEN USED IN NATO COUNTRIES TO MODIFY DIETARY HABITS
IN THE INTERESTS OF HEALTH." CANADIAN CCMS DEL WILL BE PREPARED
TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL AT PLENARY AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING IT.

2. BEGIN PROPOSAL TEXT:

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR PROJECT ON FOOD AND HEALTH

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FOR THE NATO COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY

IT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THIS COMMITTEE THAT
MANY OF THE CHALLENGES TO OUR MODERN SOCIETIES ARE IN THE

FIELDS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE. IN CANADA, WE HAVE FOUND THAT UNFORTUNATE CHOICES OF "LIFESTYLES" CONTRIBUTE A GREAT DEAL TO THE LOAD ON, AND COSTS BORNE BY, OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND ALSO HAVE HEAVY SOCIAL AND HUMAN COSTS. BY "LIFESTYLES" WE REFER TO CHOICES AS TO HABITS AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS MADE BY SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION. CERTAIN CHOICES SUCH AS EXCESSIVE SMOKING, DRINKING, OR EATING HAVE ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS, SINCE THEY MAY LEAD, RESPECTIVELY, TO LUNG CANCER; TO ALCOHOLISM AND ROAD ACCIDENTS (ALREADY TREATED IN A SUB-PROJECT OF CCMS ON ROAD ACCIDENTS AND ALCOHOL) AND TO OBESITY AND CONCOMITANT HEART AND OTHER DISEASES - ALL IMPOSING EXTRA BURDENS ON ALREADY OVERLOADED HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT A PROJECT ON FOOD AND HEALTH BE DEVELOPED, SPECIFICALLY ON HOW CAN SUCH UNFAVORABLE LIFESTYLES BE CHANGED. THIS PROJECT WOULD ENABLE US TO DISCUSS THE ATTEMPTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO CHANGE LIFESTYLES IN OUR VARIOUS COUNTRIES. AT THIS TIME WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE DISCUSSIONS BE LIMITED TO FOOD AND NUTRITION BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OBESITY AND ITS COMPLICATIONS IN NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND BECAUSE BOTH SMOKING AND ALCOHOL HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL BODIES WHERE OUR EXPERTS MAY CONSULT ON THEIR SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. MOREOVER, WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN DONE IN THE FIELD OF ALTERATION OF DIETARY HABITS AS PART OF FOOD POLICIES, BY OUR INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUCH MORE HAS BEEN DONE PRIVATELY (OFTEN WITH DELETERIOUS NUTRITIONAL EFFECTS), MUCH OF THIS WORK HAS NOT BEEN ASSEMBLED, PUBLISHED OR EVALUATED TO COMPARE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF PROGRAMS. IT IS ALSO OUR FEELING THAT BY ASSEMBLING IN A CCMS PROJECT PUBLICATION INFORMATION ON THE WAYS IN WHICH FOOD HABITS CAN BE INFLUENCED IN ORDER TO PUT INTO EFFECT FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY, OTHER GOVERNMENTS FACING VERY URGENT AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN MAKING FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES EFFECTIVE MAY BE HELPED.

TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY IS THE ONLY FORUM WHERE THIS PROBLEM CAN FRUITFULLY BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE IT IS COMPOSED OF THE MAJORITY
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OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FACING THE PROBLEM, AND THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES.

IN PROPOSING THE TOPIC OF "FOOD AND HEALTH" AS A POSSIBLE SUBJECT FOR A NEW NATO/CCMS PROJECT, IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT COULD BE TO IDENTIFY, COMPARE AND EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VARIOUS METHODS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED IN THE NATO COUNTRIES TO MODIFY DIETARY HABITS IN THE INTERESTS OF HEALTH. IN OUR OPEN SOCIETIES THIS WOULD EXCLUDE RATIONING BUT WOULD INCLUDE BOTH PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) AND EFFORTS THROUGH SUBSIDIES OF VARIOUS TYPES, SUCH AS FREE

SCHOOL LUNCHES, AND DIRECT SUBSIDIES ON STAPLES, END TEXT
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